

**Summary of IDEM Workgroup Meeting  
ANTIDEGRADATION/OSRW**

Monday, May 19, 2003

IDEM, IGCN, Conference Room D, Indianapolis

9:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. E.S.T.

**Introduction:**

On Monday, May 19, 2003, IDEM staff met for the eighth time with a wide cross-section of stakeholders which make up the Antidegradation/OSRW workgroup. These notes are intended to be a summary of the major points from the meeting held at IDEM's Shadeland offices.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Wu. Those in attendance for all or part of the meeting included: Art Umble, Bill Beranek, Charlotte Read (by speakerphone), Dan Olson, Neil Parke, Ralph Roper, and Tom Simon.

In addition, the following IDEM staff members were present for all or part of the meeting: Dave Kallander, Dennis Clark, and John Nixon.

**Summary:**

The workgroup discussed the following:

1. The minutes from the April 21, 2003 meeting were approved. Discussion regarding the 4/21/03 minutes included:
  - A. Charlotte Read requested a cogent way to access IBI data for a particular stream segment. Denny Clark responded that once biological data were input to the AIMS database they could be queried fairly easily, allowing a response in as little as one week (the summer field season may delay this).
  - B. Neil Parke suggested that the comment period for 2-1.3-10(B)(3) be at least thirty (30) days.
  - C. Dan Olson said if a tiered system were used, the time needed to collect needed data would be shortened compared to a pollutant by pollutant approach.The minutes will be posted to the Triennial website.
2. Implementation
  - A. Dave Kallander, Charlotte Read, Denny Clark, Art Umble, Neil Parke, Ralph Roper and Dan Olson advanced the discussion on U.S.EPA's Tiered Aquatic Life Uses model. The discussion focused on the implementation of "categories" 5 & 6 and 1 & 2.
  - B. Neil pointed out that about 65% of permits go to zero flow streams where the chronic criteria are applied. Antidegradation uses unused loading capacity, but

- that would be zero. Denny recalled that the WQAG talked about not using antidegradation where chronic criteria apply.
- C. Bill Beranek said this might improve the rulemaking by allowing for a less intense antidegradation demonstration due to the pre-existing biological situation.
  - D. Neil suggested as a policy matter using 0% of the unused loading capacity as the de minimis for ONRWs, 10% for OSRWs and 20% for Tier 2. Further discussion clarified the complexity of the issues. Charlotte cautioned that if categories 5 & 6 were to be used, a mechanism should exist to help bring them into category 4. Denny pointed out that a concrete lined ditch may not get any better.
  - E. After lunch Bill drew a diagram that could serve as a framework for discussing antidegradation policy. A discussion ensued between Bill, Charlotte, Tom Simon, Denny and Art. Tom brought up the QHEI (Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index) used in Ohio. He said that anyone could do it as it was based on observations. He would send a copy to Larry.
- 3. Denny asked for a copy of the QHEI form. Tom will try to get the URL for information published by Ed Rankin in 1975. Charlotte asked if the agency was looking into ways to simplify antidegradation. Denny suggested that antidegradation could be tailored for a waterbody.
  - 4. Due to the “hyperfix” construction activities downtown, the workgroup requested the meeting location be moved back to Shadeland. Larry will poll the workgroup about moving the meetings. Dan requested, for the public meetings, for as much advanced notice as possible.
  - 5. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. E.S.T. Unless otherwise notified, the meeting will be held at IGCN, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Conference Room D.